

Anne Fesh

From: Sheehan, Jane C [jane.sheehan@mail.va.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, March 15, 2000 8:33 AM
To: 'info@acb.org'
Subject: FW: I support video description

-----Original Message-----

From: Sheehan, Jane C
Sent: Tuesday, March 14, 2000 7:44 AM
To: 'info@acbb.org'
Subject: I support video description

I am writing to support the FCC proposed rules on video description (docket no. MM99339).

I have always loved video description, whether on television or on movies, and find it much easier to follow the action. It is totally frustrating for a blind person to spend a half an hour to an hour (or even up to two hours for a movie) and find that the end of the program is totally visual.

Jane Sheehan
14311 Astrodome Drive
Silver Spring, MD 20906-2245
(301) 598-2131 Home
((202) 273-8381 work
E-Mail: jcsheehan@smart.net

Anne Fesh

From: Stephen Patterson [jsp@sabvi.com]
Sent: Wednesday, March 15, 2000 10:48 AM
To: 'info@acb.org'
Subject: I support descriptive video

Dennis Steiner, Vice President/COO
Susquehanna Association for the Blind and Vision Impaired
Lancaster, PA

On behalf of 55 blind employees, of whom I am one, I support the FCC
proposed rules for descriptive video MM Docket No.99-339.

Anne Fesh

From: Gary McLaughlin [garym@saturn.caps.maine.edu]
Sent: Wednesday, March 15, 2000 10:29 AM
To: info@acb.org
Subject: Descriptive Video

As a member of ACB of Maine I Gary McLaughlin, PO BOX 2311, Bangor, Me.
04402-2311 support the FCC proposed rules for descriptive video MM Docket
NO. 99-339. Thank you.
Gary L. McLaughlin
Independent Living Regional Manager
North Central Maine

Anne Fesh

From: Rob Gallo [groovepapa@mindspring.com]
Sent: Tuesday, March 14, 2000 9:17 PM
To: info@acb.org
Subject: I support descriptive video

My name is Rob Gallo.
I live in St. Petersburg Florida, and I am blind.
I support the FCC proposed rules for descriptive
video MM Docket No.99-339.
The NFB definitely does not speak on my behalf in this matter.
Rob Gallo,
The Groove Papa
"Life ain't nothing but a good groove"

Anne Fesh

From: R Chaffin [chaffin@ruraltel.net]
Sent: Tuesday, March 14, 2000 9:33 PM
To: info@acb.org
Subject: FCC DESCRIPTIVE VIDEO

Dear FCC Personnel,

As a member of the blind community, I would like to support MM Docket No. 99-339 which would require descriptive video as a means of making television programming accessible to myself and others of the blind and visually impaired community. I have watched movies where the action was described and found the movies to be much more meaningful and understandable.

Thank you,

Robert Chaffin
1105 Centennial Blvd.
Hays, KS 67601

3/15/2000

Anne Fesh

From: Ron Jalbert [rjalber@attglobal.net]
Sent: Tuesday, March 14, 2000 10:06 PM
To: info@acb.org
Subject: I support descriptive video

I am an advocate for the blind and have several friends who are blind and who would enjoy having access to current information and entertainment now available to the general public.

Ronald Jalbert
61 Canterbury Drive
Parkersburg WV 26101-8051

3/15/2000

Anne Fesh

From: Charles Cronin Jr. [charmmary@worldnet.att.net]
Sent: Tuesday, March 14, 2000 9:57 PM
To: info@acb.org
Subject: Support descriptive video

MaryEllen Cronin
Charles R. Cronin Jr.
339 Mulry Lane
Lawrence, NY 11559

Home (516) 374-6008
MaryEllen Work (718) 327-2809
Charles Work (516) 292-9000 Ext. 216

Dear Commissioners:

My husband Bob and I are both visually impaired. We are writing to advise you that we strongly support the position that you have taken regarding making descriptive video service available on television.

We are both aware that not all visually impaired people support your position. You may be asking yourselves why this is so? Well, it may help to shed some light on this situation when you remember that not all people choose to wear seat belts or bicycle helmets.

Please be aware that as the visual nature of programming becomes more pronounced, the more difficult it is for us to follow it. We are saddened to learn about the television industry's decision to oppose your initiative. It seems that they are not required to meet the same high standards that they set for everyone else. Thank you for having the courage to make television more accessible to us.

Respectfully,
Charles and MaryEllen Cronin

Anne Fesh

From: Kathy, Jim Strahan [jkstrahan@earthlink.net]
Sent: Tuesday, March 14, 2000 7:25 PM
To: info@acb.org
Subject: I support descriptive video

My name is Kathy Strahan.

2999 E. Bluebell AVE. Brea, CA. 92821

I support the FCC and their efforts to obtain DVS for those of us who are blind, like myself.

I would enjoy TV much more if I was able to have access to narration.

Kathy Strahan

Anne Fesh

From: Esther Levegnale [elevegnale@snet.net]
Sent: Tuesday, March 14, 2000 7:40 PM
To: info@acb.org
Subject: I Support Descriptive Video

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

Re: MM Docket #99-339

My name is Esther Levegnale and I am totally blind. I have been an avid supporter of Descriptive Video from Day 1 and have enjoyed everything from movies to television documentaries on PBS.

I think it would be wonderful if television shows broadcast by major networks could be broadcast in Descriptive Video. I am totally against NFB's stand on this issue, as I feel that we as blind people deserve equal rights and access to all television shows that are broadcast. There are times when I'm "watching" a good movie, for example, on TV and can pretty much pick up what is going on, but there are certain scenes that are visual and if someone isn't there explaining it to me, I wouldn't know what was happening in a particular scene, so invariably I always have to query my coworkers to see if they watched the same show as I had. Sometimes I'm lucky, sometimes I'm not. I also enjoy a particular soap opera which I faithfully follow daily, recording the show and watch it when I return home from work. I would also like to keep up with some of the finer details on that show also, even though, for the most part, I'm able to grasp what is happening. I could go on and on listing examples of documentaries, news shows, sit-coms, docudramas, etc., but I think I have more or less made my point and stated my case.

The bottom line is: Access to all of us, and I totally support your stance on this situation. I hope we can all inundate the FCC with our opinions on this issue and fully support their helping us. We can't just sit back and let things happen. We cannot afford to be complacent and we all must ban together to make our feelings known.

Please consider my opinion and I grant permission to have it printed in any source or form you choose. I wish you well and if anything further needs to be done, I would be more than willing to help.

Sincerely,
Esther Levegnale
205 New Haven Avenue
Waterbury, CT 06708
(203) 753-5932 (Home)
(203) 573-6000 Ext. 5759 (office) (until 3:15 p.m., EST)
E-Mail: elevegnale@snet.net

Anne Fesh

From: Melanie Brunson [mbrunson@acb.org]
Sent: Tuesday, March 14, 2000 8:18 PM
To: info@acb.org
Subject: I support descriptive video.

I am a blind person who is very much in favor of the FCC's efforts to increase the number of tv programs that include descriptive video. In fact, I think this decision is long overdue!

Thank you for forwarding this message to the FCC for me.

Melanie Brunson

Anne Fesh

From: Morozwhite [Morozwhite@email.msn.com]

Sent: Tuesday, March 14, 2000 8:35 PM

To: info@acb.org

Subject: I support descriptive video

Nicole White
8070 W. Russell Road #2003
Las Vegas, Nevada 89113

I am totally blind and totally support the FCC proposed rules for descriptive video MM
Docket No.99-339.

The difference for me is great. I am also a member of the NFB but do not support their
opinion on DVS.

Morozwhite@msn.com

Anne Fesh

From: Don Bowmer, President [don@audio4authors.com]
Sent: Tuesday, March 14, 2000 8:37 PM
To: info@acb.org
Subject: I support discriptive video

Dear Sir or Madam:

I am writing in support of FCC rules (MM Docket No.99-339), which would provide access to video programming for persons with visual impairments. Such programming has otherwise been denied.

As President and founder of Audio4Authors Production Co., and an individual who happens to be blind, I feel that it is important that our society begins taking the necessary steps to include all of its members in having the opportunity to obtain publicly disseminated information and programming. The technology to do this exists. In light of the industry's overall revenues, it can hardly be considered to be cost prohibitive, as has been suggested.

Just as the general public has at last caught on to the pleasure and enjoyment of audio books as a vehicle for entertainment and information, we, the blind, request the same access to general programming.

Finally, it should be noted that the National Federation for the Blind (NFB) does not accurately report its membership, and certainly does not reflect the views of most of America's six million visually-impaired citizens. It is ironic that these professional beggars, NFB, are suggesting that in this case they do not support access since they are well known among the blind community for openly begging for money and special accommodations when such benefits serves its leadership.

Please note that while I support the intent of this rule, I also support a gradual, reasonable implementation that would allow the identified companies and organizations a final opportunity to provide access voluntarily.

Truly yours,

Donald R. Bowmer, President
Audio4Authors Production Co.
2783 Warren St.
Eugene, OR 97405
(541) 485-1404
don@audio4authors.com

Anne Fesh

From: John A. Fleming [bj2kiowa@cdsnet.net]
Sent: Tuesday, March 14, 2000 5:19 PM
To: info@acb.org
Subject: "I support descriptive video"

My name is John A. Fleming
My address is 999 Glenlyn Dr.
Williams, Or. 97544
Phone 541-846-6981
Email <bj2kiowa@cdsnet.net>

I am totally blind. I think that descriptive video is great for blind people.

I fully support the FCC proposed rules for descriptive video MM Docket No.99-339.

sincerely

Blue Skies

John & The Kooky Guide Dog Kiowa
President, Oregon Council Of The Blind
mailto:bj2kiowa@cdsnet.net

Life has to be lived. That's all there is to it.
Eleanor Roosevelt (1884-1962)

Growing Old is Inevitable; Growing Up is Optional.
Unknown

Anne Fesh

From: SirDave@aol.com
Sent: Tuesday, March 14, 2000 5:07 PM
To: info@acb.org
Subject: I support descriptive video

To: FCC, Washington

To whom it may concern,

I has come to my attention that there are groups trying to delay or eliminate the incorporation of descriptive video on broadcast TV.

My wife is visually impaired and I can attest to the benefit of DVS on public television programming. For her, DVS programing is all that she can watch and enjoy. In addition to my wife, my profession puts me in contact with hundreds of blind and visually impaired people every month, and I can say that if more DVS programing were available these people would be watching it.

Contrary to popular belief, the National Federation for the Blind represents only a small fraction of blind people. The largest segment of blind and visually impaired individuals are elderly and are not represented by any organized group. They are also not very aware of current technology and as such do not have a voice in the DVS debate. Because these people are more likely to live alone and have limited means of leaving the house DVS could be a very important part of their lives.

I urge you to make all broadcast video programming accessible to the blind and visually impaired.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

David C. Fisichella
79 Queen Street
Falmouth, MA 02540
capevision@aol.com

Anne Fesh

From: Dlevine25@aol.com
Sent: Tuesday, March 14, 2000 4:56 PM
To: info@acb.org
Subject: I Support Descriptive Video

This refers to docket # 99-339

I have 2 blind siblings due to Retinitis Pigmentosa. Important informational sources, not to mention simple social events such as watching television or seeing a movie together are unavailable to them and us as a family due to the fact that readily available technology is not being utilized to help. I support descriptive video.

Thank you.

David Levine
45 Revere Court
Deerfield, IL 60015

Anne Fesh

From: Dan Rossi [drossi@transarc.com]
Sent: Tuesday, March 14, 2000 1:13 PM
To: info@acb.org
Subject: I support descriptive video"

Dan Rossi
5541 Ellsworth Ave. #1
Pittsburgh PA 15232

I am a totally blind individual and I have found the use of Descriptive Video to be both useful and enriching in my life. Thus I support the FCC's proposed rules for descriptive video, video MM Docket No.99-339.

Having done cost analyses for a manufacturing firm for several years, I understand the concern of protecting the bottom line. However, in a multi-billion dollar industry such as the entertainment industry I find it sad that the leaders are so short-sighted as to deny a not insignificant portion of the society this benefit.

As the baby boomers slide into their later years the complaint of missing what is going on on the screen will become more prevalent. Then the entertainment industry will have a much larger and much more powerful group of unhappy customers with which to deal. It is in the entertainment industry's best interest to accept this responsibility now rather than later.

Dan

Blue Skies
Dan Rossi
(412) 667-3634
drossi@transarc.com

Anne Fesh

From: Prime [kprime@suffolk.lib.ny.us]
Sent: Tuesday, March 14, 2000 12:08 PM
To: info@acb.org
Subject: I support descriptive video

My name is Kathleen Prime, and I am a member of ACBNY/LI. I am totally blind. Thanks for informing all members about the FCC situation. As someone who is totally blind, I see a real need for descriptive video services in order to enhance our quality of life and give us equal access to the information that all other citizens have available to them. I think it is very inappropriate that NFB should presume that it speaks on behalf of all blind people. It may be the most influential organization of the blind in terms of financial status, but I can assure you that it does not speak for me or for my fellow ACB members! With descriptive video access, we are not asking for any special privileges. We are not seeking anything additional. We are only asking to have equal access to the same information that everyone else can appreciate and enjoy. NFB's pretentious claim that blind people are not interested in descriptive video makes us seem apathetic and helplessly dependent, rather than self-sufficient and aware of our rights as citizens. NFB, as well as the FCC, should be made aware that there are other stronger voices to be heard! My family members and sighted friends share my opinion on the value of descriptive video for blind and visually impaired people. I can only imagine how much information we miss by not having access to the visual side of television. Thank you for your continued efforts to inform and educate us about this matter.

Sincerely,
Kathleen Prime

Anne Fesh

From: Rick Alfaro [ralfaro@bellsouth.net]
Sent: Tuesday, March 14, 2000 7:14 AM
To: info@acb.org
Subject: I support Descriptive Vides Service

My name is Rick Alfaro and would like to make it known that I do indeed support the use of DVS. I am totally blind and feel that Descriptive Video adds a whole new demension to my viewing experience, and makes it truly enjoyable. I fully support MM Docket No.99-339 which outlines the FCC proposed rules for the inclusion of the DVS format. My contact info is below.

Rick Alfaro
11051 S.W. 9th Pl.
Davie, fl 33324

Thank you.
--All the best,
-- Rick Alfaro
-- ralfaro@bellsouth.net

Anne Fesh

From: djc [djc@calweb.com]
Sent: Tuesday, March 14, 2000 1:04 PM
To: info@acb.org
Subject: I support Descriptive Vidio

Don Coco
1961 Howe Ave, #37
Sacramento, Ca. 95825
Being Totally Blind I support Descriptive Video.
MM Docket No.99-339

<mailto:djc@calweb.com>

I C Q Number Is: 4781694

Anne Fesh

From: Sanfilippo, John [JSANFILIPPO@lighthouse.org]
Sent: Thursday, March 16, 2000 10:32 AM
To: 'info@acb.org'
Subject: I support video description

As regards FCC MM Docket No.99-339,

I very much support the FCC proposed rules for descriptive
>>video.

"Call the number on your screen." is not very helpful when one cannot see
the screen.

John Sanfilippo
220-25 93rd Road
Queens Village, NY 11428

Anne Fesh

From: Amy Bower [abower@whoi.edu]
Sent: Wednesday, March 15, 2000 7:55 PM
To: info@acb.org
Cc: capevision@aol.com
Subject: I support Descriptive Video

To: FCC, Washington, DC

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing in full support of Descriptive Video Service for television programming. I am legally blind, but I still enjoy watching television. My quality of life is greatly improved as a result of the entertainment and educational programming on television. Most of my viewing however is limited to public television, where Descriptive Video Service, or DVS, is most widely available. If that service did not continue, my enjoyment of these programs would diminish significantly, to the point where I would not watch them. I would like to have access to network television programs as well, and I therefore strongly support the expansion of DVS.

Thank you.
Dr. Amy Bower

Dr. Amy S. Bower
MS #21
Department of Physical Oceanography
Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution
Woods Hole, MA 02543 USA
voice: 508-289-2781
fax: 508-457-2181
e-mail: abower@whoi.edu
<http://science.whoi.edu/users/abower>

Anne Fesh

From: Carol Cyr [ccyr@pcbvi.org]
Sent: Wednesday, March 15, 2000 7:57 PM
To: info@acb.org
Subject: I support descriptive video

--Carol Cyr
Computer Instructor
Peninsula Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired
2470 El Camino Real, Suite 107
Palo Alto, CA 94306
U.S.A.

I'm not blind but I teach computers to the blind. I support the FCC
proposed rules for descriptive video MM Docket No.99-339.

Anne Fesh

From: Donna L Sanchez [dsanchez99@juno.com]
Sent: Wednesday, March 15, 2000 8:54 PM
To: info@acb.org
Subject: I support descriptive video

My name is Donna L Sanchez I live at 27 Quail Hollow Dr, San Jose CA 95128-4528. I am leagely blind. I have Glaucoma. I fully support the FCC proposed rules for descriptive video MM Docket No 99-339. Blind people are entitled to have access to all kinds of information just as sighted people are and by having this we will be able to have the same opportunity to enjoy programs and get information. So please I request that you support this and help us be equal like our sighted friends. Also this will make us more independent .
Thank you

Donna L Sanchez

Anne Fesh

From: MI Council of the Blind/VI [mcbvi@iserv.net]

Sent: Wednesday, March 22, 2000 10:48 PM

To: info@acb.org

Subject: I support Descriptive Video

Rosemarie Facilla
2088 Parslow Dr. #133
Muskegon, MI 49442

I am totally blind and have enjoyed descriptive video. I would like to see descriptive video available on all national TV programming.

3/23/2000

Anne Fesh

From: MI Council of the Blind/VI [mcbvi@iserv.net]
Sent: Wednesday, March 22, 2000 11:02 PM
To: acb
Subject: I support Descriptive Video

Rachel Batenburg

1154 Langland

Muskegon, MI 49442

I am an elderly person and descriptive video is important to me.